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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 61% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 65,631 | Nifty 19,545 | Gold 57,160 | Silver 71,100 | Dollar 83.25 | Euro 87.67 | GBP 101.01

Slither Inn

CITY PAGE 2

State of the art snake rescue centre in city

Tech cycle

CITY PAGE 4

'Link city's tech parks with cycle lanes'

Roads in Pulakeshinagar need permanent fix as pothole-ridden stretches waylay commuters on two-wheelers, auto rickshaws

SHAME HOLED STORY

Tannery Road, Moore Road, Robertson Road await remedial measures

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KAUSHIK JN

Commuting is a tough task for two-wheeler riders and those travelling by auto rickshaws on most of the roads in Pulakeshinagar assembly constituency due to massive potholes.

A two-wheeler rider fell from his vehicle while negotiating potholes at the Tannery Road Junction a few days ago. The rider was admitted to a hospital for treatment of the injuries sustained thereafter.

Residents of the area said the roads were not asphalted for quite a long time. Majority of roads crave for immediate attention of the authorities concerned. They blame the BBMP for the apathy towards keeping the roads motorable.

"Honestly, the roads are in bad condition; I feel they should have been asphalted during the gap, when the rain stopped in Namma Bengaluru. I have been residing in Frazer Town for close to two decades now. The roads were in a good condition when AR Zakir was the corporator," said Syed Aftab Hussain, a resident of Frazer Town.

The residents stressed that they are finding it difficult to commute on the roads in the area of late due to a number of potholes and huge craters.

"Residents of ward no. 78 need a permanent solution by asphalting the potholes on roads such as Tannery Road, Tannery Road Junction near the railway under bridge, Moore Road and Robertson Road. Just fixing the potholes in a shabby way will not solve the problem permanently. Potholes emerge on the roads whenever it rains heavily. I request the BBMP engineering team to do a good job rather than a temporary fix," said Habiba Subhan of Frazer Town Residents' Welfare Association.

Auto rickshaw drivers too are not happy with the condition of the roads in and around Frazer Town. "One

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

> "How do you expect roads to be in good condition when stretches were not asphalted in the last three years? ... asphalting will begin shortly"
>
> —AC Srinivasa, MLA, Pulakeshinagar

DEAD BEAT

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

Majority of women interviewed for study said husbands were habitual perpetrators of violence

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Dowry harassment, alcohol abuse, and lack of parental guidance are the main reasons for domestic violence toward women in Bengaluru, a new research has revealed.

The study was conducted by a team of researchers from NIMHANS, Indira Gandhi National Open University, and city-based Abhya Hospital.

After interviewing women approaching Vanitha Sahaaya Vani - the women's helpline - in the city, researchers discovered while many women reported severe physical violence such as pushing, slapping, and punching, the majority interviewed reported husbands to be habitual perpetrators of violence.

Most of the women underlined dowry harassment as the reason for violence.

The study considered a sample of 30 women who approached the helpline. The majority of the respondents (50%) were in the age group of 20–29 years. Moreover,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7»

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Doll festival

As people gear up for Dasara celebrations in the city, the annual Dasara doll festival is underway at Tamaala as well as online on the website www.tamaala.com. The festival features handmade dolls by rural artisans from Kolkata, Varanasi, Ettikopakka, Kodapalli, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Panruti, Channapatna, and Mysuru. Dolls are made from wood, clay, paper mash, ivory wood, or lac-turned wood. **Where: Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar; When: October 7 to 21; 10 am– 9 pm**

02 Live in style

Get your hands on some of the exclusive fashionable goods at Hi Life Exhibition, as it brings gorgeous designer wear, wedding ensembles, ethnic designs, every day fashion apparels, accessories, jewellery, and more.
Where: The Lalit Ashok
When: until October 8; 10 am to 8 pm

Soothing airflow

V-Guard has unveiled the BLDC High-Speed Fan, Insight-G. The fan industry is pegged at approximately Rs 12,000 crore and growing at a CAGR of 8–9%. The BLDC segment is valued at Rs 1,500 crore (LY), growing at a CAGR of 45% in the ceiling segment. There is also a growing paradigm shift to the BLDC segment from conventional induction fans.

Ramachandran V, Director and COO, V-Guard Industries Ltd, said, "The Insight G has been crafted from our state-of-the-art factory at Roorkee, Haridwar. It offers cutting-edge technology coupled with brilliant aesthetics to adorn the living spaces of Indian homes. As we move forward, we will be introducing IoT/smart variants that will cater to the needs of next-gen consumers." — BMB

Right to speech

A man holds a placard and chants slogans during a protest by citizens against the arrest of journalists, under a stringent anti-terror law on Thursday, in Bengaluru

In shadows of Hogwarts

People for Animals introduces reptile enclosure 'Slytherin House', which can house up to 30 snakes at once

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As PfA has rescued more than 10,000 reptiles, it needed an enclosure, catering to their needs; there are separate enclosures wherein snakes, lizards, tortoises, and more can be kept

Based on the fictional world of Harry Potter, which features four houses at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the city has introduced its own 'Slytherin House' at the People for Animals (PfA), a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre in Bengaluru. This Slytherin House has created a specialised reptile enclosure that carefully controls temperature and humidity levels.

This is the first state-of-the-art facility found at a rescue and rehabilitation centre in the city. Taking advice from international conservation centres and experts, PfA came up with the concept of having this enclosure dedicated to the reptiles. The Slytherin House can have 30 snakes kept inside at a time, while there are other separate enclosures wherein other reptiles like terrapins, lizards, tortoises, and more can be kept.

According to Colonel Dr Navaz, Chief Veterinarian at PfA, in the past 20 years, PfA has rescued more than 10,000 snakes, including 7,000 spectacled cobras, 2,000 rat snakes, and 1,000 russell vipers. Around 500–600 mildly venomous or non-venomous snakes have also been rescued.

Dr Navaz said, "The Slytherin House has a temperate climate; humidity and moisture are automatically controlled. Snakes will get the same atmosphere and temperature as they are deep in burrows, which is their habitat. We will have all surgeries, treatments, and other facilities in the enclosure. We took input from international rescue and conservation centres to make this enclosure. However, the cost was higher, and we had problems with the funds, but to our luck, the Ashraya Hastha Trust came forward to fund the cause, and the work to make the enclosure had begun." As PfA has rescued more than 10,000 snakes and another 1,000 reptiles, it needed such an enclosure.

As there is a lot of urbanisation taking place in the city and with man-animal conflict, there are many wildlife rescues lately, and they need a dedicated space for their rehabilitation after the treatment is carried out, he added. Pointing out some of the snake injury cases, Dr Navaz revealed, "Most of the cases we get are fractures of the spinal cord in snakes. The JCBs are used to clear out some of the fields, due to urbanisation, that are the snakes' dwelling places. The snakes get caught in this, and the spinal cord gets fractured. We carry out a digital X-ray to find out the fracture and set it right, which takes 45–50 days. The portion below the fracture gets paralysed due to nerve disruption. Now we are using the latest physiolaser combined with traditional veterinary Chinese technology."

"Snakes will get the same atmosphere and temperature as they are deep in burrows
– Colonel Dr Navaz, PfA

By using these methods, PfA is able to cut the rehabilitation time by 25–30%. With many rescue cases of snakes, the enclosure is a boon to them. Each of the enclosures has a built-in water body, wherein the snake can go to the body when the heat is higher. There's also burrow-like structures in the enclosure where the snakes can go inside.

Dr Navaz further added that PfA now also has a dedicated surgery and treatment room for reptiles. "Earlier, we were performing the surgical procedure at the general operation theatre (OT). Now, with the dedicated treatment room, we can perform the reptile treatment in its dedicated centre. Apart from spinal cord injuries, we get other cases like head injuries from the snake or intestinal injuries, with people trying to attack them," he informed.

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Pedal power: Push for metro-linked cycle lanes

Bengaluru cyclists petition for cycle lane network linking tech parks to metro stations to provide eco-friendly, efficient commuting options

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The need for improved cycling infrastructure arises as the ORR pop-up cycle lane has been dismantled due to ongoing metro construction, obstructing safe cycling routes to workplaces

Bengaluru cyclists have reached out to the Directorate of Urban Land and Transport (DULT), advocating for the creation of cycle lanes linking tech parks to metro stations. Initially proposed four months ago under the Bengaluru Smart City Cycle to Work program, this initiative aims to enhance commuting options for fitness-conscious tech professionals.

The need for improved cycling infrastructure arises as the ORR pop-up cycle lane has been dismantled due to ongoing metro construction, obstructing safe cycling routes to workplaces. Techies, many of whom prefer cycling for their daily commute, now face challenges accessing their workplaces securely. Even environmentally conscious individuals who utilise public transport systems like the metro are unable to integrate cycling into their commute due to the absence of dedicated cycle lanes connecting tech parks and metro stations. In response to these concerns, cyclists have petitioned the DULT, proposing implementing a cycle lane system that seamlessly links tech parks with nearby metro stations.

A proposed pilot initiative suggested a cycle lane between Bahmane Tech Park and its neighbouring metro station.

Bengaluru Bicycle Mayor Sathya Sankaran told BM," The initial proposal was a pilot project to connect Bagmane Tech Park and SV Road metro station using cycle lanes. Some cycle lanes will be permanent, and some will be pop-up lanes. Additionally, civil works can be taken up to accommodate the space by cycle lanes. The cycle track will connect Bagmane Tech Park to the metro station using a 2.5 km track. The idea is to develop an alternate cycle lane route using narrower routes. A month ago, a feasibility study was being conducted. We had proposed the initiative to DULT four months ago." Initially, the lanes will be pop-up lanes and will be considered to be made permanent based on usage. The cycle lanes would start from the exit periphery of the tech park.

> **"The initial proposal was a pilot project to connect Bagmane Tech Park and SV Road metro station using cycle lanes. Some cycle lanes will be permanent, and some will be pop-up lanes** – N Sathya Sankaran, Bengaluru Bicycle Mayor

The move could help decongest the ORR, hosting many tech parks and reducing carbon emission rates. According to a report by ORRCA, nearly 6.4 lakh employees working across 500 companies use 3.3 lakh vehicles. With an effective last-mile connectivity coverage, most people can be encouraged to use Metro services. According to a recent survey under the Personal2Public campaign, 35 per cent of the respondents live near metro stations; however, only 8.75 per cent were found to be metro users. 85 per cent were willing to shift to metro stations.

Recently, the ORR witnessed one of the biggest congestions, and nearly 3.5 lakh private vehicles were found to be stagnated there. Experts and traffic officials have suggested the widespread usage of the metro as a significant solution.

Traffic tweaks: Bengaluru's HTV time check

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The heavy vehicular traffic (HTV) movement on Outer Ring Road (ORR) will be banned from 7 am to 10 pm to solve the current traffic woes

In a recent development, the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) held a meeting with Joint CP traffic, Anucheth, where a significant decision was reached. It was decided that heavy vehicular traffic (HTV) movement on Outer Ring Road (ORR) would be banned from 7 am to 10 pm.

Responding to this decision, Vajapeyam Srivatsa tweeted, "Banning HTV during peak hour is a decade-old rule; only effective implementation is the key. With metro work, it is difficult for Bengaluru traffic police to distinguish. If they make some similar identification or issue passes only for metro project vehicles, this will help".

In 2023, the traffic police in Bengaluru registered a total of 1657 cases related to HTV prohibition.

However, residents have raised concerns about the enforcement of this ban, as they frequently observe HTVs on the road. Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor of Bengaluru Mobility, said, "The proble is the enforcement. You go out on the road right now and can spot a HTV. The problem is that I don't know if the policemen are not interested in catching their violators or there is a serious lack of workforce in the traffic department." He adds that Bengaluru should have city sensors to detect violations.

"In foreign countries, they don't have policemen all over the city, but violations are caught because of technology. Similarly, the violations can be recorded if HTV vehicles are not allowed in the city at peak hours. It is a yellowboard vehicle, and they have to get a certificate every year. If the vehicle is caught with multiple violations, their license can be suspended," he added.

However, some residents also feel that it's not HTV creating traffic bottlenecks but a lack of lane discipline."The only way to curb traffic is to strengthen lane laws. If people follows it, the traffic flow would improve," said a resident.

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Community concern

Chinnappanahalli

The garbage issue in 5th Cross, Chinnappanahalli, remains unattended, causing concern among residents.

Debris disarray

Kaggadasapura

After a local-sponsored religious event, a residential area in Kaggadasapura is left cluttered with debris and liquor bottles.

Neglected leaks

Mathikere

Amid severe drought, BWSSB neglects valve leaks, causing daily water wastage at JP Park, Ward #17, opposite Chowdeshwari Bus Stand.

All-inclusive 'purple rides' are here

Bengaluru-based app launches disability-friendly ride option to address unique needs

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In a significant step toward greater inclusivity, Bengaluru-based community-driven auto-hailing app Namma Yatri introduced 'Purple Rides,' a disability-friendly ride option catering to persons with disabilities (PwD) to book rides without any inconvenience.

Partnering with EnAble India, an NGO committed to empowering PwD, Namma Yatri has customised this service to address users' unique needs with visual, hearing, or physical impairments.

The features include allowing users to disclose disabilities on their profiles and personalising assistance from drivers. The app adapts based on disclosed disabilities, such as disabling phone calls from drivers for hearing-impaired users. It also features an interface for visual impairments and is compatible with talkback features.

The initiative was started a few weeks ago, and over 3,500 customers and 1,300 drivers completed 6,000 plus Purple Rides. After seeing it gather pace and momentum, the Purple Rides initiative was officially launched on Thursday.

Shan MS, Chief Growth Officer Juspay, said, "The people in Bengaluru can update their assistance requirement as part of their profile on the Namma Yatri app if they need support on visual impairment or hearing or even for senior citizens. Whenever they make a ride request, the driver gets to know it's a special type of ride. If it is a hearing-impaired customer, then the app turns off the option to call, and the only option the driver has is to text the customer. The visually impaired customer has a talkback feature, and the driver can make a call upon reaching the pickup location as to where the person is and guide them to the auto. In the first step, we are trying to create awareness between the service provider (driver) and service seeker (customer) and indicate transparency of the assistance needed. Next, we are creating a community of people with disabilities to use it and constantly give us feedback."

The app customises service to address needs of users with visual, hearing, or physical impairments

Most of the ride-hailing apps overlook disability-friendliness. However, the Namma Yatri, started by the auto-rickshaw driver union, has set an example to make rides disabled-friendly.

Mallika, a 32-year-old with a visual impairment who has completed 40 plus rides, said, "Namma Yatri empowers me. The option to indicate my disability and thoughtful app customisations make every ride a breeze."

Shanti Raghavan, Founder and Chief Enabler of EnAble India, added, "We are happy to partner with Namma Yatri in this transformative endeavour. We are taking a giant step towards a future where mobility barriers can be overcome. Our journey also encompasses educating drivers and providing sensitivity training tailored to the unique requirements of PwD."

> **People can update their assistance requirement on the Namma Yatri app if they need support**
> – Shan MS, Chief Growth Officer, Juspay

This apart, the auto drivers are empathetic towards the purple rides; however, they are being trained and sensitised. Digital content is created by making videos to help them sensitise and create awareness.

Murthy, an auto driver, said, "Being able to assist individuals with disabilities brings me immense joy and satisfaction. Our small efforts can make a big difference."

Construction site clash claims 1

Suspected theft confrontation due to a prior incident led to stabbing

Chandra Layout Police detained a suspect after he stabbed a man at his under-constructed home in the city's Bapuji Layout. The incident happened on Wednesday night, and the police have opened an investigation and registered a case.

The victim, identified as 28-year-old Khadir Ahmed, succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital within the jurisdiction of Chandra Layout Police Station Limits. The tragic incident took place during an outing on October 4, where Khadir and a friend ventured into a house under construction. The owner of the property, Rajendra Prasad, confronted them, suspecting theft due to a prior incident reported by site employees.

Tensions escalated, resulting in a confrontation between Rajendra Prasad and Khadir's companion. In the ensuing scuffle, the companion used a knife to attack Rajendra. Khadir, attempting to intervene and protect his friend, inadvertently stabbed himself. Rajendra managed to subdue the attacker and rushed Khadir to a private hospital, where he unfortunately passed away due to his injuries.

Chandra Layout Police have apprehended Rajendra Prasad and initiated legal proceedings, filing an FIR under IPC section 304 in connection with the incident. —BMB

Cunningham Road bus shelter vanishes

FIR filed after bus shelter worth ₹10L goes missing, week after installation

A week after its installation, a bus shelter worth Rs 10 lakh vanished from Cunningham Road in the city, less than a kilometre from the Bengaluru Police Commissioner's office. An inquiry has been launched, and an FIR has been filed in response to a complaint.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had awarded a tender to a commercial company to manage bus stops at various locations. Consequently, the organisation erected the stainless-steel structure at the Cunningham bus stop on August 21.

However, on August 28, when business representatives visited the site to inspect the bus shelter, it was mysteriously missing. Perplexed by this development, the officials promptly contacted BBMP representatives to inquire if they had authorised its removal, only to discover they had no knowledge of it.

N Ravi Reddy, the vice-president of the affiliated private company, sought action against the culprits after consulting with senior officials at the High Grounds Police. Consequently, the police initiated an inquiry and filed an FIR under IPC section 379 in response to the complaint. Investigators suspect the theft may have occurred between August 23 and August 28, and they are currently reviewing local CCTV footage in pursuit of the culprits. —BMB

Not SASsy enough: Tax change is coming?

Deputy CM not happy with SAS, BBMP aims to collect 50% more tax than last year

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Is Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) planning to change the Self-Assessment Scheme (SAS)? Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar who also holds the Bengaluru in charge portfolio said that the time has come to revise the SAS scheme.

Shivakumar on Thursday said, "The biggest problem we are facing is with Bengaluru's property tax collection. I am not satisfied with the SAS. We had brought this scheme with a lot of hope and trust from the residents. We have seen a lot of trials. We have been able to collect only Rs 3,000 crore plus in a financial year which is not at all enough. For a mega city like Bengaluru, Rs 3,000 crore is not enough at all. This means that the civic agency invariably depends on the State Government for additional funds but from the government side, we cannot pump more funds. Hence, we are now brainstorming to revise the SAS with a new scheme."

Surprisingly, in the SAS scheme, it is not just a section of residents who have not paid the money but many government offices have also failed to pay tax. Reacting to this, Shivakumar said, "Our priority is to check how many state and central government offices have failed to pay the property tax. Even the central behemoths like HAL, BEL or HMT have to cough up taxes. I have written to the heads. So far, only HAL has paid Rs 93 crore as property tax. I have told BESCOM, KPTCL and BWSSB that they are not exempted and need to pay up at any cost."

SAS was introduced way back in 2000 and has continued for the last 23 years. Now, there is pressure on BBMP to increase the property tax but no decision has been made yet. Earlier, Shivakumar had said that he was one of the key players in the Krishna government to introduce SAS in Bengaluru. But, during other interactions, he expressed apprehensions over the foolproof tax collection via SAS and gave examples as to how people cheat in SAS.

BBMP planning to revise the Self-Assessment Scheme (SAS)

> **"The biggest problem we are facing is with Bengaluru's property tax collection. I am not satisfied with the SAS**
>
> –Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar

Revamp preferred

Prior to SAS, revenue officers had to visit individual properties to fix the tax rates but now the taxpayers voluntarily declare the tax and pay. Even the BBMP officials favour a complete revamp of the property tax collection procedure.

To achieve this, they plan to verify all SAS declarations for major commercial buildings in 2023-24. These returns will be cross-referenced with documents from other state agencies using appropriate software, with the expectation of significantly increasing property tax collection.

"Last year, we could have increased the tax collection by plugging leaks and identifying revenue sources. A project was undertaken to identify owners who were paying commercial rates to BESCOM and other state agencies while declaring residential property tax payments. This initiative uncovered 12,699 cases, leading to an additional tax levy of Rs. 134 crore, with expectations of another Rs. 250 crore in additional taxes," he said.

Revathy Ashok, CEO and Managing Trustee of BPAC, stressed on the need for improved data management and sharing within the civic agency for property tax assessment. "I suggest leveraging electricity connection data from BESCOM to cross-reference with property tax data. By adopting such technology-driven approaches, the BBMP can enhance compliance and accuracy in tax assessment."

This year, the BBMP has set a target to collect 50% more tax than the previous year. A BBMP official said, "Our main focus is to boost the civic agency's revenue and generate more income, so we have set new targets for each zone. These targets are 50% higher than last year's, and all eight zones have received increased targets. While we may even surpass the 50% goal, our immediate aim is to achieve at least that. In the previous financial year, we collected Rs 3,332.72 crore, and this time, our target is Rs 4,567 crore. Failure to meet the targets could lead to consequences such as transfers to other zones or being assigned non-executive positions."

In June, despite offering a 5% concession, BBMP managed to collect only Rs 465 crore. Typically, BBMP provides this concession to those who pay property tax in April, extending it until the end of May. However, due to the election code of conduct, the concession couldn't be extended in May.

Concession benefit

After the new government took over, the concession was offered again from June 2 to June 30. Interestingly, tax collection in May (without the concession) outperformed June (with the concession). In May this year, BBMP collected Rs 554 crore. As of June-end for the financial year 2023-24, the total tax collection by BBMP was Rs 2,245.17 crore. Among the zones, Mahadevapura contributed the highest tax collection of Rs 591.18 crore, followed by Bengaluru East zone (Rs 415.98 crore), South (Rs 358.94 crore), West (Rs 248.39 crore), Bommanahalli (Rs 231.89 crore), Yelahanka (Rs 185.56 crore), RR Nagar (Rs 149.73 crore), and the lowest collection was in Dasarahalli (Rs 64.50 crore). During the past years, BBMP's tax collection was as follows: Rs 2,860 crore in 2020-21, and Rs 3,088 crore in 2021-22. For 2022-23, the estimated tax revenue was Rs 4,189 crore, but the actual collection was Rs 3,332.72 crore.

Metro yellow line to get green signal in Feb 2024

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Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya inspected the Yellow line of the metro on Thursday and said that the line would likely be inaugurated in February of 2024. "According to BMRCL, civil work on 15 out of 16 stations is 95% complete, and the remaining 5% will be completed by the end of December 2023," he said. Along with this, he has noted that the first two train sets for the line are expected to arrive from China while the remaining ones are being manufactured in Kolkata under the Make In India initiative. Surya has also said that he would intervene to ensure that the Chinese engineers and officials, who are facing issues with regard to their visas required to visit Bengaluru for testing and trial runs, will receive their visas at the earliest.

Yellow line of the metro likely be inaugurated in February of 2024.

Surya has further noted that the Yellow line will have three interchangeable stations (RV Road, Silk Board and Jayadeva), allowing commuters to change between the Yellow, Pink, Green and Purple lines. Once the particular stretch begins operations, the daily ridership is estimated to stand at 2.5 lakh passengers, helping ease traffic congestion around Silk Board and Electronic City. He has urged metro officials to work on foot over bridges (FOBs) at Bommasandra and Hebbagodi stations to ensure safety for pedestrians while also pointing out that the lack of adequate parking spaces at metro stations is one of the major factors deterring residents of the city from using the metro. He claimed to have instructed metro officials to explore different ways to procure land to build sufficient infrastructure for parking. **–BMB**

New forest chief has his task cut out

Brijesh Kumar Dixit has taken charge as the Head of the Forest Force and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) of Karnataka Forest Department on Thursday. He took over after Rajiv Ranjan, the former Head of Forest Force retired on September 30, 2023. On the occasion, Karnataka Forest Minister Ishwar Khandre highlighted the issue of forest encroachment in the state.

"More than one lakh acres of forest land in Karnataka has been encroached upon and all possible measures have to be taken to protect our forest and get the encroachers evicted," said the Minister while he met Dixit on Thursday.

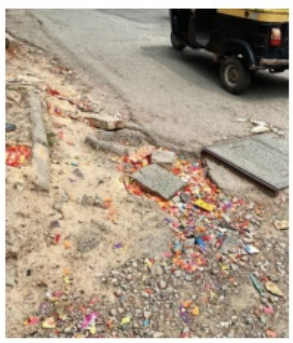
The Minister also brought up the issue of human-wildlife conflict and said that wild animals have been straying out of the forest area due to a lack of food and water availability owing to below-average rainfall this monsoon season. He instructed the official to take the required measures to ensure fodder and water availability inside the forest. "Wild animals come to Nadi in search of food and water, causing loss of life and crops. All sectors should take measures to make fodder and water available within the forest area," added Khandre.

Addressing the human-wildlife conflict in Dakshin Kannada district, the Minister announced plans to prioritise railway barricades in the area. **–BMB**

Tenders for tunnel project

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has announced that tenders will be floated for a proposed 190-km long tunnel road within 45 days. Eight qualified companies are set to submit feasibility reports for the corridor, covering key areas such as Bellary Road, Old Madras Road, ST Mall Junction to Mekhri Circle, Miller Road, Chalukya Circle, Trinity Circle, Sarjapur Road, Hosur, Kanakapura Road to Krishna Rao Park, Mysore Road to Sirsi Circle, Magadi Road, Tumkur Road to Yeshwantpur Junction, and Outer Ring Road Gurgunte Palya, among others. He said that the feasibility report will determine crucial aspects such as whether the tunnel road should be four-lane or six-lane, its starting and ending points, and the overall expansion plan for Bengaluru. Given the project's vast scale and funding requirements, a phased approach is deemed necessary, with the initial focus on the proposed 190 km stretch. Additionally, Shivakumar urged BBMP engineers to expedite priority works, including drainage projects for effective rainwater management, particularly with the conclusion of the monsoon season.

Holed up in Frazer Town



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two-wheeler rider had a miraculous escape when he fell off from his two-wheeler after losing balance while negotiating a pothole on the road," said an auto rickshaw driver.

When informed, Frazer Town ward committee nodal officer Thippeswamy said the BBMP has taken measures to fill up potholes. "The filling of potholes has already begun," he said.Meanwhile, Pulaksehinagar MLA AC Srinivasa told BM that he was aware of the bad condition of the roads in Pulakeshinagar.

"How do you expect roads to be in good condition when these roads were not asphalted in the last three years? I am taking measures to asphalt the roads without any delay. I expect the asphalting of the roads to begin shortly," said MLA Srinivasa.

At home and afraid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

while more than half (53.3%) were homemakers, the big chunk (70%) stayed in nuclear family structures. While more than one-fourth reported severe physical violence such as pushing, slapping, and punching, over 73% of the women reported verbal violence in the form of threats. Moreover, nearly 63% reported severe verbal violence in the form of abusive and filthy language.

Half of these women reported moderate emotional violence in the form of deprivation of love and affection, whereas the rest reported moderate violence in the form of deprivation of appreciation (46.70%), care, sympathy, and support.

"The results corroborated with the study done by the special cell for Women and Children (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) on the profile of women approaching the cell for redressal of violence and the majority reported that perpetrator was the husband. This indicates that the family atmosphere which is supposed to be a supportive and protective factor for family members can also be a great source of stress and torture for women.

Over one-fourth of respondents reported severe physical violence, over 73% reported verbal violence in the form of threats

Our results were corroborated by various Indian studies, which conclude that alcohol abuse was the main reason for husbands' violent behaviours against women. Nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of the respondents reported dowry harassment as the reason for violence," noted the study. Taking note of the findings, experts underlined that mental health professionals need to work on the root cause of habitual violence and dowry harassment while empowering the victims.

"There is a need for early family intervention at the root cause itself. In addition, preventive and preparedness strategies can be taught to women with the aim of making them more resilient to face stressful circumstances at home, workplace, and society," said the study published in the Journal of Forensic Science and Medicine.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALA.S W/o Sri Nagaraju G. P. R/a # 143, Kannamangala Village, Madhure Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk. Bangalore Rural District. My correct name is MALA.S but in Union Bank name is wrongly mentioned as MALA K.S. vide affidavit dated 06-09-2023 Sworn before that Notary S. Chandrashekar, Doddaballapur.

I, Yogesh Prabhu Raj M, S/o M.L.Mohan Raj, R/at No.7, E Street, Bowee Lane, Near Life Style, Ashok Nagara,Bangalore -560025 have changed my minor son's name from CHAITANYA to CHAITANYA.Y, vide affidavit dated 03.10.2023 sworn before VII Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore.

I, Naveena G,R/o 27/35 Panchamuki 1st Main 5th Cross Lic Colony 3rd Block East Jayanagar-560011 have changed my name to NAVEEN G for all purpose vide affidavit dtd 05/10/2023 sworm before notary T R Raghavendra Rao. Bengaluru

I, Asha Sunil Kumar W/o Sunil Kumar V R/o 610/488, 9th main, Thimmareddy colony, New thippasandra, Bengaluru 560075 have changed my name to Asha Narayana Reddy, Affidavit Dt.05/10/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Suguna Narayan R/o #62, 1st Cross 3rd Phase RKM Layout TC Palya, K R Puram, Bengaluru 560036, have Changed my name to Suguna Narayanachari.

I, Jeethandra Kumar R S/o, P S Raghavendra Rao R/o 21/1 St Antony Building Vysya Bank Layout Near Swathi Oil Mill, Begur Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Jitendar Kumar R for all purposes

I Sridevi Amaravathi Yogiswarappa W/o Yogiswarappa A.G R/o #05, Srinidhi Nilaya, doddapet, davanagere 577001 have changed my name to Shridevi Amaravathi Yogiswarappa for all purposes.

I Nasreen Begum R/o No A302, 3rd floor MR Classic Apartment 2nd Cross Dr Ambedkar Road Anughraha Layout B'lore 560076 have changed my name to Nasreen Jamal for all purpose

I, Nirupa Yandapalli W/o Mahesh Reddy Gadi R/o #214, 2nd Flr Balaji Aavas Channasandra Main Road Hope Farm Whitefield B'lore-560066 have changed my name to Nirupa Gadi for all purposes.

I, Amjad c/o Majeed khan R/o #24, 9th cross , Vinobhanagar, Kadugondanahalli ,B'lore-560 045 have changed my name to Amjad Khan for all purposes.

I Syed Jaffar Shariff S/O, Basha Jan R/o No19/1 2nd Floor Old Bamboo Bazaar Street Mir Ubaidulla Road Shivajinagar Bangalore 560051 have changed my name to Syed Jaffar.

I, Niraj Malhotra S/o Malhotra Hira Lall R/o T1, B-904 Mahindra Windchimes, Bannerhatta Rd, B'luru-560076 have changed my name to Niraj Kumar Malhotra for all purposes

I, Mohamed Aleemulla S/o Shafi R/o # 45 2nd Main Road Doddanna Layout Venkateshpuram B'lore 560045 have changed my name to Aleemulla S for all purposes

I, Assan Sheriff I S/o Ismail Sheriff R/o S102, Sai Ashirwad Paradise, Block-B, Vastu Layout, Sarjapura-Hubli, Near Kudlu Government School, Kudlu, Bangalore, have changed my name to Hasan Sharif I

I Muthu Madhavan Madhavan Ganesan S/O, Ganesan R/o No.307, Phase 1, Golden Park Apartments, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru: 560076 have changed my name to Muthu Madhavan Ganesan.

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LOOKING GOOD?

Possible link between video chatting and appearance dissatisfaction

The covid-19 pandemic ushered in a new era of digital connection: In the absence of in-person gatherings, many people instead found themselves face-to-face with their co-workers and loved ones on a screen.

Videoconferencing has provided many benefits and conveniences. However, it isn't surprising that constantly seeing ourselves on screens might come with some downsides as well.

Prior to the pandemic, studies showed that surgeons were seeing increasing numbers of patients requesting alterations of their image to match filtered or doctored photos from social media apps. Now, several years into the pandemic, surgeons are seeing a new boom of cosmetic surgical requests related to videoconferencing. In one study of cosmetic procedures during the pandemic, 86% of cosmetic surgeons reported videoconferencing as the most common reason for cosmetic concerns among their patients.

Despite the fact that many aspects of life have returned to some version of pre-pandemic normal, it's clear that videoconferencing and social media will be with us for the foreseeable future. So what does that mean when it comes to appearance satisfaction and making peace with the image that's reflected back at us?

For the past 10 years, I have worked as a specialist in obsessive-compulsive disorders, eating disorders and anxiety. Since the pandemic, I, too, have seen increasing numbers of therapy clients reporting that they struggle with appearance concerns related to video chatting and social media.

Zooming in on image and appearance dissatisfaction

Every person has perceptions and thoughts about their appearance. These can be neutral, negative or positive. We all look at ourselves in the mirror and may have even experienced distress while looking at our reflection.

There are a number of factors that may lead to appearance dissatisfaction. A preoccupation with thoughts, feelings or images of one's own appearance is linked to the action of "mirror gazing", or staring at one's reflection. Researchers suggest that this type of selective self-focused attention and mirror gazing can lead to negative fixations on specific attributes or minor flaws, which in turn intensify the preoccupation with these attributes.

Other factors that can contribute to appearance dissatisfaction include low self-esteem, societal beliefs around appearance, peer and parental influences, temperament and genetic predispositions to mental health conditions.

Appearance dissatisfaction and negative evaluations of self are associated with depression, lower self-esteem, habitual negative thinking and increased social anxiety. What's more, research suggests that these preoccupations can contribute to the development of eating disorders and disordered eating behaviors, such as frequently restricting food intake or exercising without refueling.

The 'Zoom' effect

With the ubiquity of Zoom meetings, FaceTime calls, selfies and the constancy of documenting our lives on social media, access to our own image can often feel inescapable. And for some people, this can magnify feelings of appearance dissatisfaction that may have been more fleeting before the Zoom era.

Since the pandemic, screen time has increased for both adults and children. What's worse, recent research suggests that the video and photo reflections we see of ourselves are distorted.

Videoconferencing, taking selfies and posting on social media are visually based activities where appearance is often the primary focus. All of them have in common the fact that a person's image is either live or shared in an immediate manner. Perhaps not surprisingly, these image-based platforms have been significantly associated with appearance dissatisfaction, anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

One study found that those who engaged in more video chatting appearance comparisons, meaning those who looked at others' appearance during a video call and sized up their own appearance in comparison, experienced lower appearance satisfaction. This study also found that people who used more photo-editing features on videochat platforms were more likely to compare themselves with others and spend more time looking at themselves on video calls.

One thing that is unique to videoconferencing is that it allows people to easily compare themselves with others and watch themselves sharing and speaking in real time. A 2023 study found that discomfort with one's appearance during videoconferencing led to an increased fixation on appearance, which in turn led to impaired work performance.

Researchers also suggest that appearance dissatisfaction is associated with virtual-meeting fatigue. The research reports that this could be due to negative self-focused attention, cognitive overload and anxiety around being stared at or being negatively evaluated based on appearance.

This last point is notable because of the difficulty videochatters have determining where other users are looking. Using the concept of the "spotlight effect" - our tendency as humans to overestimate how much others are judging our appearance - this difficulty may lead to more anxiety and individuals believing that others are evaluating their appearance during a video call.

How to combat appearance dissatisfaction in the digital age

If you find yourself criticizing your appearance every time you hop onto a video conference call, it may be time to evaluate your relationship with your appearance and seek out help from a qualified therapist.

Here are some questions to consider to help determine whether your thought patterns or behaviors are problematic:

- How much of my day is spent thinking about my appearance?
- What sort of behaviours am I doing around my appearance?
- Do I feel distressed if I do not perform these behaviours?
- Does this behavior align with my values and how I want to be spending my time?

Another strategy is to be intentional about focusing on what other people are saying in a videoconference instead of peering at your own face.

When it comes to helping others who might be struggling with appearance dissatisfaction, it is important to focus on the person's innate qualities beyond appearance. People should be conscious of their comments, no matter how well intentioned. Negative comments about appearance have been linked to worsened self-esteem and mental health. When viewing yourself or your peers on video and social media, try focusing on the person as a whole and not as parts of a body.

Reducing screen time can make a difference as well. Research shows that reducing social media use by 50% can improve appearance satisfaction in both teens and adults.

When used in moderation, videoconferencing and social media are tools to connect us with others, which ultimately is a key piece in satisfaction and well-being.

(Emily Hemendinger, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Nicotine replacement therapy

To stop smoking
More widespread access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy, a crucial tool in the fight against smoking for over 25 years, may help in tobacco cessation in India, said doctors on Thursday.

Addiction to tobacco
Tobacco addiction remains a global menace, responsible for one death every six seconds worldwide and over a million deaths in India alone, constituting 9.5 per cent of all fatalities.

Job 50% done
Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) offers a 50 per cent higher probability of quitting smoking compared to attempting to quit without it, and it is both safe and readily available without the need for a prescription.

Bane of tobacco
Dr Chandrakant S Pandav, former Head of Department, Community Medicine, at AIIMS, New Delhi, emphasised on the pressing need for improved access to tobacco cessation methods in India. "Tobacco use affects 28.6 per cent of adults in the country, with a particularly significant impact on 42 per cent of men and 14.2 per cent women. Challenges continue to exist in difficult geographic locations and rural areas, highlighting the importance of making NRT accessible over the counter," said the Padma Shri recipient.

What NRT does
Nicotine, the primary addictive component in cigarettes, delivers rapid pleasurable effects through smoking.
NRT, on the other hand, serves as a temporary replacement for a small quantity of nicotine, controlling cravings, alleviating withdrawal symptoms and facilitating transition to tobacco abstinence.
Unlike cigarettes, NRT provides a gradual and very small increase in blood nicotine levels, which discourages misuse. —IANS

Escape to serenity at this hidden gem

Kanachanagudda is nestled on the banks of Tungabhadra

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Travelling is a passion for many, but a section of travellers prefer not to go to places that are already well known or quite crowded. These are people who want to explore places that are not known so much, or rather, they want to take the road less known. If you are one of them and looking for such a place, then head to Kanachanagudda, near Siruguppa. The place is on the banks of the Tungabhadra.

Nestled on the tranquil banks of the Tungabhadra River, Kanachanagudda is a tapestry of greenery, adorned with small anaicuts and check dams that orchestrate a symphony of mini waterfalls. The river, a lifeline echoing tales of the Vijayanagar rulers, breathes life into the landscape, and the remnants of age-old dams stand as a testament to the dynasty's commitment to harnessing its waters for agricultural prosperity.

Steeped in history, the echoes of Vijayanagar resonate through the ruins that dot the surroundings. From fort remnants that stand as silent witnesses to bygone eras to the age-old Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple, the landscape is an open invitation to unravel the mysteries of the past. Wander along the riverbank, where the melody of cascading waterfalls harmonises with the chirping of a myriad of avian residents, making it a paradise for bird enthusiasts.

Venture a bit further, and you'll encounter the Brindavana of Sri Vasudhendra Teertha—a sacred enclave that has witnessed the cinematic magic of Kannada films, including the legendary Shivappa Naika. Each step in Kanachanagudda is a dance between nature's serenity and the echoes of history.

Situated at a distance of 352 km from Bengaluru, the journey to Kanachanagudda unfolds as an expedition of its own. Once you reach Siruguppa, a mere five-kilometre odyssey along the Ballari Road beckons you to this clandestine retreat. So, for the discerning traveller seeking a rendezvous with the undiscovered, Kanachanagudda whispers an invitation—an invitation to embrace the allure of uncharted territories and create a saga of exploration that transcends the ordinary.

Get to Bhutan, now by train

The beautiful Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan shares a border of 605 kilometres with India. Our country is also Bhutan's largest trading partner. India accounts for 90% of its imports and 98% of its exports.

Now links between the two countries will be further strengthened when the Indian government funds a railway line into Bhutan.

The 57.5-kilometre-long railway line will connect Kokrajhar in the Northeast Indian state of Assam with Gelephu in Sarpang in the Himalayan kingdom. The project will cost an estimated Rs 10 billion and is expected to be ready in 2026.

The construction of the railway line into Bhutan is part of the Indian government's plan for extensive expansion of the north-eastern region's railway infrastructure. It is expected to herald further expansion of the railway network in the eastern and southern regions of both countries, especially in areas such as Phuentsholing, Samtse, Nganglam, and Samdrup Jongkhar.

–Femina

IN IMAX AT (IN ENGLISH)

PVR - INOX CINEMAS {Nexus Forum Mall, Koramangala, 10:35, 1:15, 7:20, 10:00 p.m. | Vega City, 11:00, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 p.m. | VR Mall, 10:00, 12:40, 6:50, 9:30 p.m. | Mantri Square Mall, 9:55, 12:35, 7:10, 9:50 p.m. | RMZ Mall, 10:05, 12:45, 6:50, 9:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Nexus Shanthiniketan, 10:15 a.m., 12:55, 7:05, 9:45 p.m.}.

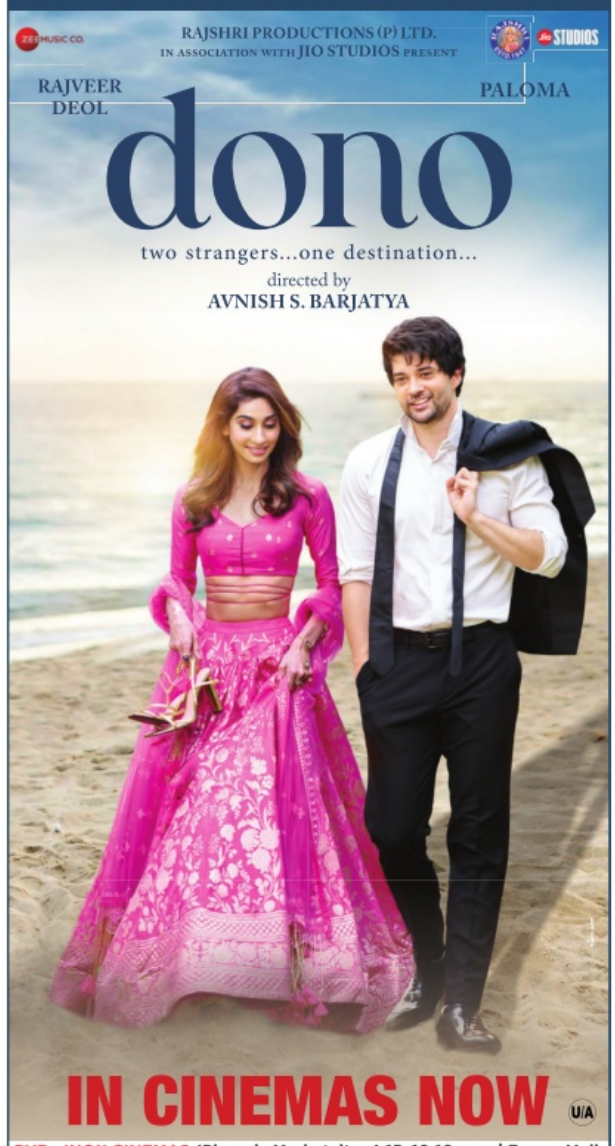
IN 4DX AT (IN ENGLISH)

PVR - INOX CINEMAS {Phoenix Marketcity Mall, 1:00, 9:45 p.m. | Nexus Forum Mall, Koramangala, 4:25 p.m. | Vega City, 1:00 p.m. | Orion Mall, 10:40 a.m., 7:20 p.m. | Bhartiya City, 10:00, 4:10, 10:20 p.m. | Falcon City, 4:55, 10:00 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Nexus Shanthiniketan, 11:00 a.m., 5:15, 10:30 p.m.}.

PVR - INOX CINEMAS {Phoenix Market City, 10:05, 4:30, 7:50, 10:10 p.m. | Orion Mall, 1:20, 4:25, 10:00 p.m. | Orion Uptown Mall, 10:10, 1:40, 7:25, 10:20 p.m. | MSR Regalia Mall, 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 p.m. | Spirit Mall, 10:00, 1:40, 7:20, 10:10 p.m. | VR Mall, 4:15, 10:20 p.m. | Vaishnavi Saphire Mall, 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 p.m. | Bhartiya City, 1:20, 7:20 p.m. | Directors Cut Rex, 11:10, 1:40, 4:50, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | GT World, 1:40, 4:50, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | The Aura, Whitefield, 10:10, 1:20, 7:20, 10:00 p.m. | Global Mall, 10:40, 1:10, 4:20, 6:50, 10:00 p.m. | Falcon City, 11:10, 1:25, 3:30, 7:35, 9:30 p.m. | Garuda Mall, 9:50, 3:55, 7:20, 9:50 p.m. | Swagath Mall, 10:45, 1:25, 7:30 p.m. | JP Nagar, 10:05, 4:05, 10:10 p.m. | Lido, 11:05, 1:45, 7:50, 10:30 p.m. | Forum Value Mall, 10:45, 1:25, 7:20, 10:25 p.m. | Brookefield Mall, 10:20, 1:45, 7:40 p.m. | SBR Horizon, 9:55, 1:10, 7:00, 10:20 p.m. | Garuda, Yelahanka, 10:55, 1:20, 7:55, 10:30 p.m. | Froum Mangalore, 10:15, 12:35, 4:15, 7:25, 10:00 p.m. | Central Cinemas Manipal, 10:00, 12:45, 6:50, 10:20 p.m. | Garuda Mall Mysore, 10:30, 1:35, 7:35, 10:10 p.m. | Forum Mysore, 9:50, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00 p.m. | Mall of Mysore, 10:00, 4:05, 10:10 p.m. | Centro Mysore, 11:00, 1:40, 7:30 p.m. | S Mall Tumkuru, 9:40, 1:25, 7:30, 10:20 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Lulu TRD, 10:55 a.m., 5:15, 10:30 p.m. | Lulu VIP, 1:25, 7:25 p.m. ETA Bangalore, 10:30 a.m., 1:10, 7:15, 9:55 p.m. | RMM Bangalore, 10:10, 2:40, 5:15, 8:20 p.m. | SJR Bangalore, 10:30 a.m., 4:30, 10:20 p.m. | Orion East, 11:00 a.m., 4:45, 10:30 p.m. | Mangalore, 10:00 a.m., 1:55, 7:55 p.m. | Hubli, 12:40, 4:30, 9:15 p.m.} | GOPALAN CINEMAS | INNOVATIVE | MIRAJ CINEMAS | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG | MUKTA 2 CINEMAS | CINEPHILE | KINO CINEMAS | DRC CINEMAS MYSORE | BHARATH CINEMAS | MOVIETIME DAVANGERE & OTHER CINEMAS.

FARNAZ

FOR FULL SATISFACTION & ENJOYMENT SEE ON BIG SCREEN ONLY



PVR - INOX CINEMAS {Phoenix Marketcity, 4:15, 10:10 p.m. | Forum Mall, 4:00, 9:45 p.m. | Orion Mall, 4:10, 6:45 p.m. | VR Mall, 12:40, 7:00 p.m. | Superplex Vega City Mall, 12:40, 6:55 p.m. | Superplex Forum, 3:40, 10:30 p.m. | Garuda Mall, 4:00, 10:10 p.m. | Mantri Mall, 3:55, 10:10 p.m. | Central Mall, 3:35, 10:30 p.m. | Value Mall, 3:55, 10:20 p.m. | RMZ Yelahanka, 3:35, 10:10 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Royal Meenakshi Mall, 12:35, 9:35 p.m. | Shantiniketan, 12:40, 6:35 p.m. | Lulu Mall, 12:40, 6:50 p.m. IN VIP SCREEN :- 11:00 a.m. | ETA Mall, 10:50 a.m., 7:15 p.m. | SJR Spectrum Mall, 12:40, 6:35 p.m. | Orion East Mall, 1:35, 7:20 p.m.} | PVR - INOX CINEMAS {Fiza Mall, Mangalore, 4:00, 6:55 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {City Centre Mall, Mangalore, 12:35, 6:35 p.m.}.

a yash raj films release

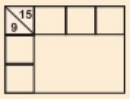
FARNAZ

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

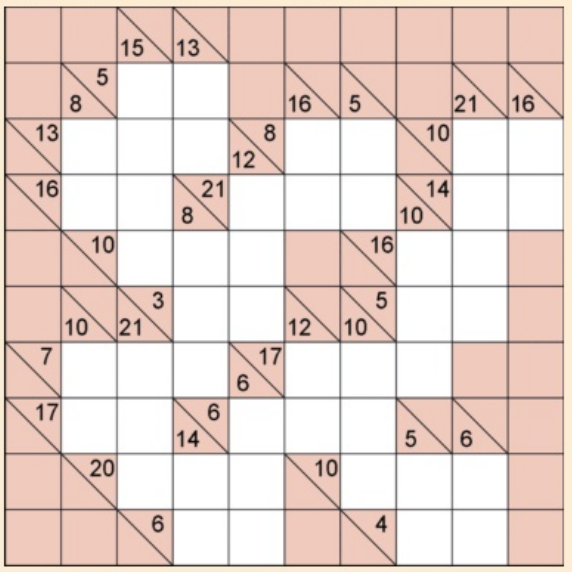
4, 16, 64, ?, 1024
What number should replace the question mark?

Kakuro

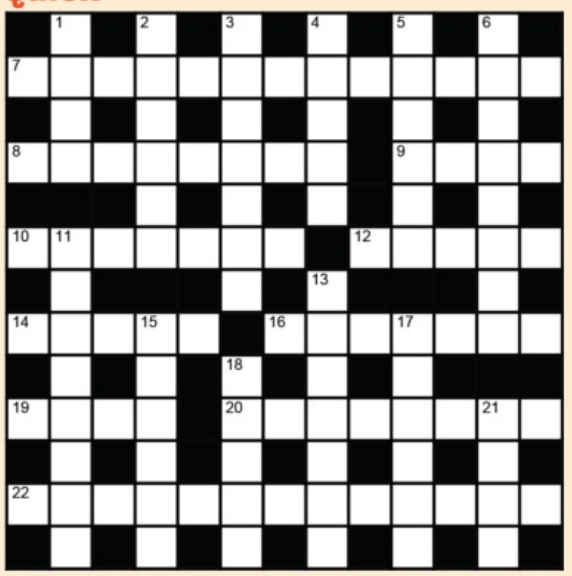
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Inclined to believe in omens and charms (13)
8 Deficit (8)
9 Policemen, generally speaking? (4)
10 Followed, pursued or hunted (7)
12 Revises copy (5)
14 Chess targets (5)
16 Lassoes (7)
19 Large cat (4)
20 Harsh-sounding (8)
22 Ballet arranger (13)

DOWN

1 An expression of pain (4)
2 A liquid fuel (6)
3 Conscience-stricken (7)
4 Plunged into water head first (5)
5 Chopped up meat into small pieces (6)
6 Be very eager about something? (4,2,2)
11 Dusk (8)
13 Apprehend or imprison (7)
15 Signal structure (6)
17 Falls near Rajiv Gandhi National Park (6)
18 Ice house (5)
21 Vertex (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

W VLDRWYT LD DLVZHN WPM-RGTK UWN MA IMLPO RGLPOD.

Linemaro

You are number one in my book

Mindchow

People living deeply have no fear of death

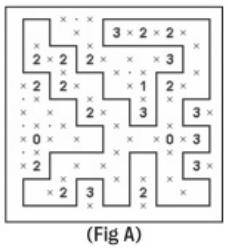
Joke of the day

A gift card is a great way to say, 'Go buy your own saintly present'

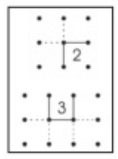
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

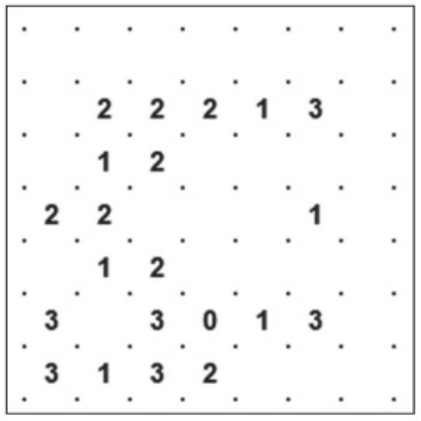


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

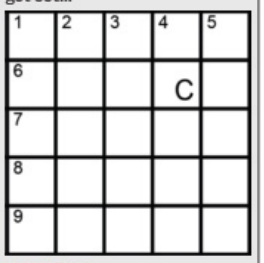


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

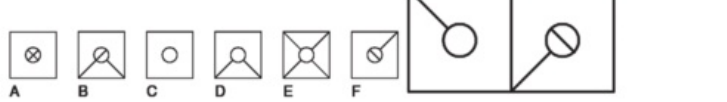
1 Set HC; 6 En Che;
7 Lutra; 8 Leafs;
9 Re Fog

DOWN

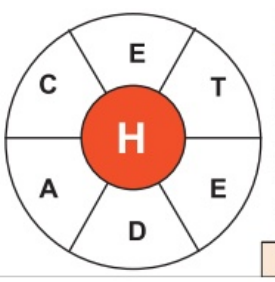
1 H cuff; 2 O Hell;
3 Treen; 4 Crags;
5 Setae

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing tile?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

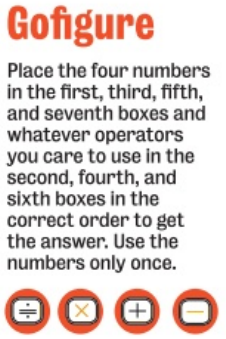
SudokuChallenge

	6		7		3		9	
	7			4			8	
		9		2		7		
1			8		7			5
		6				9		
9			1		6			4
		4		7		1		
	2			1			3	
	3		2		9		7	

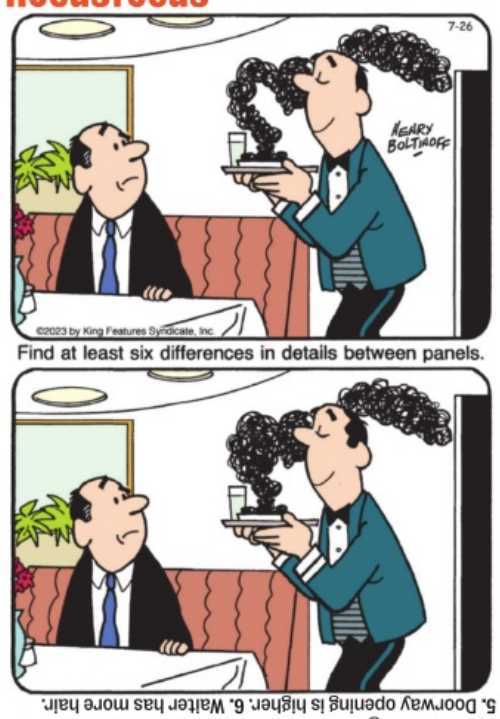
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

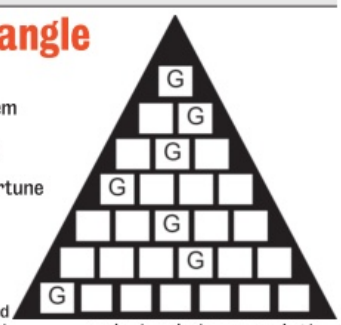
Differences: 1. Stripe is added to waiter's sleeve. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Light is moved. 4. There is more smoke. 5. Doorway opening is higher. 6. Waiter has more hair.

Riddler

If I don't give you folks the slip, You work to keep me under blade. Don't use my sheets to make your bed Nor wear my cap to give you shade. Though there are those who want me crushed Or in a block would trap me; When others look for sweet relief, I'm, so they say, their cup of tea. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Gravity, symbol
2 Own goal abbr
3 Much-bruised item
4 Exits
5 Venetian officials
6 Evades
7 Blessing; good fortune



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

MEDICINE MAN, THIS BILL IS OUTRAGEOUS!
7-12
WHERE DO YOU GUYS GET THE AUDACITY TO CHARGE FEES LIKE THIS?!
OUR LAST MONTH IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

I JUST JOINED THE LOYAL ORDER OF CUSSERS!
AND MY INDUCTION CEREMONY WAS STIRRING!
HOW SO?
WHEN THEY SWEAR YOU IN, THEY REALLY SWEAR YOU IN!
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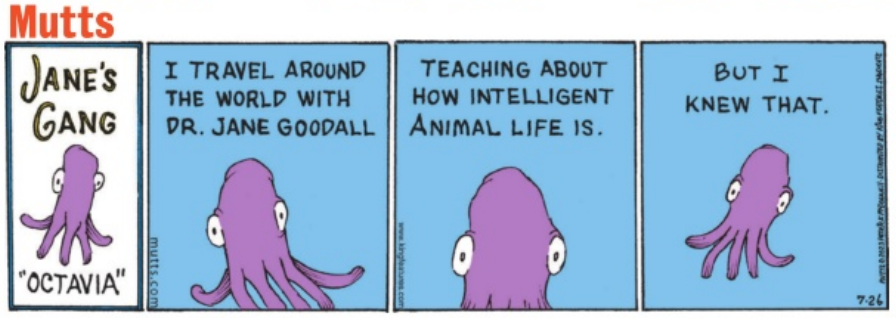
Hart of the city

HOW WAS DETENTION?
HONESTLY, GREAT! I MIGHT GO BACK NEXT SATURDAY.
I DON'T THINK THIS IS YOUR CAR, MISS!
MOM, IT'S ME! KAT!! YOUR DAUGHTER!!
KAT, I'M KIDDING. I LOVE YOUR HAIRCUT.
HOW'D IT GO?
I INCITED A MAJOR CHANGE IN KAT'S LIFE. SO NOT A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME.

Crankshaft

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE STARTED OUR INVESTMENT CLUB...
AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW OUR INVESTMENT TRAGEDIES.
YOU MEAN STRATEGIES.
NO... I THINK ED WAS CLOSER TO THE MARK THE FIRST TIME.
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS
7-24

Mutts


JANE'S GANG
"OCTAVIA"
I TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD WITH DR. JANE GOODALL
TEACHING ABOUT HOW INTELLIGENT ANIMAL LIFE IS.
BUT I KNEW THAT.
7-24

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your destiny may be with you. You can manage things easily; it may boost your confidence, and you may plan to visit some spiritual place. You are likely to donate some amount to religious activity or some charity. You may expect a short business trip. Blessing from elders may give peace of mind. Love birds may get some help from family members in terms of marriage.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull and have minor health-related issues affecting your daily routine. You may explore and analyse yourself to figure out your negativities. You may feel alone while sitting in a crowd and lose focus. In the late evening, with the help of elders, you may overcome this messy situation.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may get some business orders that may be profitable soon. You may implement some new ideas in your work front. New partnerships may come into the ground. You may be busy in your work, making you mentally tired. It affects your domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you perform well in your job; your colleagues may cooperate with you. Your performance on the job may be good, and you may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. Job seekers may get a new job. Positive news for the natives, affected by old health issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, situations have improved. People around you may now respond to you, but you are advised not to perceive life as a burden. You should strive to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations, even if you encounter difficulties in achieving easy gains. Blessings from elders may assist you in overcoming this situation. Your confusion in choosing targets may now be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, tasks become incomplete, you may be a victim of mood swings, your patience may be tested many times, and silly mistakes confuse you in concluding your work. Love birds find themselves to be confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment to the spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may need more concentration.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, with the help of your subordinate staff, you may be able to complete postponed projects. Your network may be boosted now, which may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends or siblings. Some disputes with neighbours may be resolved now. Students are advised to overcome laziness and carelessness.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may spend money on your family issues. It may affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things. You may think twice before acting. It is advised to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is a good day for you. You may have a positive environment after hearing good news from siblings. Jobseekers may get a good job. Spiritual energy may help you to make the right decision. Your focus towards your goal will be clear now. Students may have good focus in their studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you feel dull, may not feel healthy, and may likely find yourself standing at a crossroads. It is advised to follow your intuition before making some important decisions. It is advised to drive safely and shall avoid adventure tourism. You may criticise yourself; you may find it challenging to make important decisions, which may be a reason for your lack of self-confidence. It may affect your social image around you.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is important in terms of gains. You may get results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your intelligence. You may plan to get into some academics. You may donate some amount to a religious place or charity. You may also help needy people. Some investment into intellectual assets may be possible. Students may do better.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your performance may be very good in terms of profession; you may have the full support of your boss or senior, and you are likely to get new opportunities. You may expect to get a new job also. Job seekers may find suitable jobs. Singles will find their love at their workplace.

KIDZONE

Sneha S , 7 Years, Prakriya Green Wisdom School

Noorul Huda, 8 Years, St. Johns High School

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$16^2=256$;
$(2^2, 4^2, 8^2, 16^2, 32^2, \ldots)$

RIDDLER
Ice

STRIKE OUT

B	R	I	E	F	S	L	E	I	G	H	S			
U		R	A	E		A	W	N			A			
	R	A		E	V	O	L	V	E	D		D		
N	A	T	I	O	N		A	R	I	S	E	N		
T		E		U	S	A		G		E		T		
T	S	A	R		D		G	O	A	T	S			
A	T		E	I	D	E	R		I		S			
B	O	A	R	D		O		E	E	L	S		E	
U		A		N	D	A		E			E			
S	H	O	V	E	D		E	T	U	D	E	S		
I		A	R	R	I	V	E	S			S			
V		G	N	U		I	S	H			A			
E	S	T	E	M	S		T	A	B	B	Y			

FAST FIVE

F	O	R	G	E
F	L	E	A	S
U	L	T	R	A
H	E	N	C	E
C	H	E	S	T

BULL'S EYE
ache, ached, chat, cheat, CHEATED, death, detach, each, etch, etched, hate, hated, head, heat, heated, heed, teach

QUICK

														X

QUOTE UNCODE
A mistake is simply another way of doing things.

MENSA PUZZLE
G: In each row and column only lines that are common to the first two squares are carried forward to the final square.

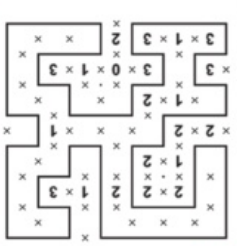
SUDOKU

5	3	1	2	6	9	4	7	8
7	2	8	5	4	1	6	3	9
9	5	7	1	3	6	8	2	4
3	8	6	4	5	2	9	1	7
1	4	2	8	9	7	3	6	5
8	1	9	6	2	5	7	4	3
2	7	3	9	4	1	5	8	6
6	9	4	3	7	8	1	5	2
4	6	5	7	8	3	2	9	1

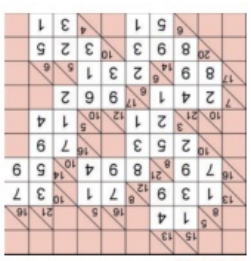
ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Og, Ego, Goes, Doges, Dodges, Godsend.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$5 + 7 - 2 - 9 = 1$
Medium
$2 + 2 \times 5 + 2 = 22$
Hard
$2 \times 8 + 2 \times 2 = 36$

LOOP



KAKURO



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New adventure — As anticipation builds for the second season of the Tom Hiddleston starrer, 'Loki', fans are buzzing with the latest revelation about the show's future. In a recent interview, executive producer Kevin Wright spoke about the potential for Loki's return to MCU

Iconic roles

With over two months to go before the release of 'The Archies', director Zoya Akhtar ignited excitement among fans by revealing a series of character posters of her cast. Taking to her Instagram handle, Zoya shared the vintage posters of the leading stars - Suhana Khan, Agastya Nanda, and Khushi Kapoor, portraying the roles of Veronica Lodge, Archie Andrews, and Betty Cooper, respectively.

The posters see the star cast embracing their characters' essence, teasing us all the drama set to unfold this December.

In the Netflix film, Suhana takes on the role of Veronica, a character she described as having an undeniably magnetic personality. She further shared that she is learning from her character's unapologetic self-assuredness.

The actress, who makes her acting debut with the film, also expressed her initial nervousness and the weight of responsibility she felt, emphasizing Akhtar's role in making. She feels comfortable and turning Riverdale into their home.

— ETimes

Tackling trolls fearlessly

Bhumi Pednekar opens up about how she has developed thick skin towards trolls

Trolls and the entertainment industry have a bond that no one can unsee. It doesn't matter what one does or wears; the troll parade always stays in place to attack at every opportunity they get. Speaking on the topic, Bhumi Pednekar expressed how she has turned thick-skinned towards the trolls.

Talking to News18, Bhumi mentioned that the trolls will always be there irrespective of what one does. It has turned into something very common. Trolls will comment even if she posts a picture fully dressed during the festive season.

She added that earlier, only family members used to criticize a person, but now there seems to be no wall. Therefore, she has grown a thick skin. Since childhood, she had had enough comments that she would look more beautiful if she lost a few kilos and questions about her short dresses.

On top of that, the actress took the liberty to call the trolls hypocrites. They talk about protecting and preserving the culture but use the most culturally inappropriate language to share their opinions. She added that our culture is all about respecting women and minding our conduct around them. Pointing at her co-artist, Shehnaaz Gill, Bhoomi further mentioned that Sana is brave enough to read through those comments, but she can't bring herself to do so, and thus, she avoids reading anything at all.

Even when Bhumi gained weight for her debut film 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha' and continued wearing clothes like she did earlier, she faced unkind and hurtful comments. However, that helped ignite a fire in her, and now things like these don't bother her. — ETimes

Couple alert

Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth have been grabbing eyeballs for their alleged relationship for a long time. The rumoured couple has been dating for a year now. However, they were yet to come out in the open about the same.

Now, at a recent fashion event, Aditi and Siddharth made an appearance on the red carpet together. They were also seen striking a pose for the paparazzi together, making their relationship official.

Aditi was a vision in a white corset top with a train, which she paired with black pants. Her open tresses, bold lips and sparkly diamond choker necklace complemented her glamorous look. On the other hand, Siddharth looked dapper as usual in his all-blue outfit, which he paired with a pair of brown formal shoes.

The rumours about Aditi and Sid's relationship began while filming the Telugu movie Maha Samudram. According to reports, they developed romantic feelings for each other during filming and have been spending much time together ever since. They are frequently seen on outings, visiting salons, and attending—various public events, including audio launches and weddings.

In February, they created quite a buzz on the internet when they posted a video of themselves dancing to the popular song 'Tum Tum.' They've also addressed their dating rumours on multiple occasions and indirectly confirmed their relationship.

Aditi Rao Hydari recently appeared in the web series 'Jubilee' and starred in another web series called 'Taj: Divided by Blood'. **— ETimes**

Interfaith romance

Sandalwood has seen its share of films exploring Hindu-Muslim relationships. The recent Kannada film 'Love,' supposedly based on true events, follows the same pattern of a Hindu boy and a Muslim girl in love. However, the film falters in justifying their love connection.

The film begins with a powerful shot encompassing a mosque and a Hindu temple, setting the stage for 'Love.' The subsequent scene introduces Swastik (Prajay Jayaram), a Hindu youth casually smoking near a roadside shop. Concurrently, Zoya (Vrusha Patil), a Muslim girl, is portrayed walking down the road, making groaning sounds. Zoya is on her way to college, initiating an unexpected encounter.

Swastik approaches Zoya, inquiring about her discomfort and whether she suffers from menstrual cramps. He offers her a sanitary pad and advises her to use the nearby public toilet. This seemingly mundane interaction lays the foundation for their unique connection. The movie then unfolds their journey, navigating cultural and societal expectations.

Amidst the narrative, Swastik's parents urge him to consider marrying a Hindu girl, but he is in no rush. On the other hand, Zoya spots Swastik at her college, prompting the development of their relationship. Swastik's charming proclamation of Zoya's beauty ignites the sparks of love between them. However, their burgeoning romance has challenges, particularly concerning their respective families.

Mahesha C Ammallidoddy's second directorial venture, 'Love,' demonstrates the director's dedication to engaging the audience by integrating multiple elements - friendship, infidelity, and suspicion. The film also sheds light on the youth of a specific community prioritising friendship over religious or communal boundaries. The film mostly features newcomers. Prajay Jayaram and Vrusha Patil deliver commendable performances. Rajath Shetty portrays Syed with conviction, while Umesh Theli's portrayal of the psycho security guard adds as a convincing villain.

Cinematographer Siddarth HR impresses with his excellent work, and the music by Sai Sri Kiran and Roshit Vijayan enhances the overall experience. However, the film could have benefited from a crisper pre-intermission screenplay.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

LOVE

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Mahesha C Ammallidoddy
- **ACTORS** Prajay Jayaram, Vrusha Patil, Rajath Shetty, Umesh Theli, and Hareesh Shetty
- **Duration** 133 minutes
- **Certification** U/A